

LCM 2009—the global challenge of managing life cycles

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After three successful conferences in Europe, the 4th meeting of Life Cycle Management (LCM) practitioners, researchers and service providers will be hosted from 6–9 September 2009 in Cape Town, South Africa.

1 About LCM 2009

LCM is the commitment to improving the sustainability of businesses and public enterprises, by minimising the environmental and socio-economic burdens associated with their products, services and activities throughout the entire material life cycles and value chains to which they contribute. UNEP/SETAC states that: “LCM is for organizations which have expressed a wish to produce or trade products, which are as sustainable as feasible; to improve their public image, visibility, general relations with stakeholders; increase their shareholder value, as well as awareness of and preparedness for changing regulatory contexts. LCM is not a single tool or methodology but a management system collecting, structuring and disseminat-

ing product-related information from various programs, concepts and tools.”

LCM is first and foremost about management, and this requires well-developed decision-making protocols and practices, both for strategic planning and daily operations; all informed by the overriding commitment to Life Cycle Thinking and Sustainable Development.

With a theme of “The Global Challenge of Managing Life Cycles”, LCM 2009 will examine the management of products and processes in both developed economies and emerging markets, the global flows of products and resources, and implications for trade.

To this end, LCM 2009 is committed to working closely with business, researchers and consultants to explore how formative insights can help to stimulate LCM to new levels of productivity and relevance in the broader community.

2 Objectives of LCM 2009

LCM 2009 will offer delegates more than the customary opportunity to present the findings of their research and practice, to engage with developments in LCM, network across academic and business disciplines and interests, and socialize with their peers. The conference will follow an exciting format of plenary and focus group presentations, panel discussions and facilitated workshops, in a deliberate move to challenge delegates and move the LCM agenda forward, in terms of how LCM can:

- Influence policy;
- Support business and public enterprises in advancing the sustainability agenda; and
- Assist them to communicate effectively with stakeholders.

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3 LCM 2009 themes

To meet the objectives of the conference objectives, LCM 2009 will be structured into the following five themes and associated sub-areas:

1. LCM and Resources: Energy; Water; Minerals and Metals; Biomass and Biomaterials; and Waste Management.
2. Engaging with Complexity: Managing global value chains—linking emerging and developed markets; Sustainability and LCM; A focus on marketing, procurement and retail; Management Science approaches—uncertainty, dynamics and multiple objectives; and Social Science approaches—the human element.
3. Policy, Governance and Delivery: Regulatory and policy issues in LCM; A focus on Carbon—foot printing, trading and regulation; The role of International trade; Emerging markets and foreign direct investment; The role of institutions and service organizations; and Social responsibility and LCM.
4. Enabling Sustainable Human Settlements: LCM in the developing world; LCM, Food and Health; LCM and energy security; and LCM and spatial planning—infrastructure, transport, housing, etc.

5. Implementation / Breaking the Deadlock: Capacity development; Engaging stakeholders; Design and innovation; Promoting Life Cycle Thinking in business practice; and Making better use of existing tools and approaches.

General contributions from the fields of Life Cycle Assessment, Industrial Ecology, Eco-Efficiency, Design for Environment, Supply Chain Management, Sustainable Production and Consumption and other allied fields have also been accepted in the programme, specifically where these support practical case studies from industry and the public sector.

4 Participating in LCM 2009

It is envisaged that the format of the conference, with its strong emphasis on participatory engagement, will deliver tangible outputs on the future trajectory for LCM. We invite you to share in this endeavour, by joining us in Cape Town in September 2009. For more information, please visit the website: <http://www.lcm2009.org>